



HCBS Oversight Committee:
Update on HIT/HIE

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In February 2008, Governor Sebelius asked the Kansas Health Policy Authority (KHPA) to work jointly with her office, and serve as the convening agency in guiding the development and administration of statewide health information technology and exchange. In response, KHPA established a Kansas E-Health Information Advisory Council to provide guidance on policy issues related to health information technology and exchange.

In the spring of 2009 the Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) was designated by the Governor as the state designee for health information technology. Since that time, KDHE has assumed oversight and coordination of the E-Health Advisory Council efforts, and KHPA serves as a member of the E-Health Steering Committee.

Part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) known as the Health Information for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH) provides incentive funding for health care providers that achieve “meaningful use” of health information contained in the exchange. KHPA will be responsible for administering incentive payments for meaningful use of HIT by Medicaid providers. At this point, HHS has begun working on an administrative definition of “meaningful use”, but no final determinations have been made. In general, “meaningful use” will be measured by how well each provider is able to improve or maintain the health status of patients in their care. The definition will

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most likely include different measures for different types of providers (physicians, hospitals, etc.).

The KHPA will be responsible for developing the infrastructure to make incentive payments to those Medicaid providers that demonstrate meaningful use of HIT. Once HHS defines “meaningful use” standards, the KHPA will work with state policy makers and stakeholders to operationalize the standard in Kansas. The HHS definition will serve as a minimum threshold, and the state will need to determine whether those standards need to be more tailored to Kansas’ needs.

The KHPA will continue to track developments at the federal level and will continue to plan for implementation at the state level. As soon as the US Department of Health and Human Services publishes a “meaningful use” guideline, the KHPA will present an overview of those guidelines to the HCBS Oversight Committee.